

STATE of WISCONSIN



OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

Proclamation

WHEREAS; gastroschisis is a condition characterized by the presence of a hole in the abdominal wall of a developing fetus, resulting in the growth of the intestines outside of the body; and

WHEREAS; according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, it is estimated that approximately one in 1,953 babies in the United States are born with gastroschisis every year; and

WHEREAS; the exact cause of gastroschisis is relatively unknown, risk factors such as young mothers, alcohol or tobacco use, or genitourinary infections may increase fetal development of gastroschisis; and

WHEREAS; while infants born with gastroschisis often undergo corrective surgery soon after birth, many experience serious lifelong complications, including short bowel syndrome, feeding and digestive issues, and multiple organ transplants; and

WHEREAS; it is important to recognize that the families of infants born with gastroschisis often encounter a variety of problems outside of the condition itself, such as a sense of isolation and difficulties obtaining timely diagnoses, finding appropriate treatment options, and affording the few treatments that do exist; and

WHEREAS; since 2018, the Global Gastroschisis Foundation—formerly known as Avery’s Angels—has been organizing a nationwide observance of Gastroschisis Awareness Day in honor of the founder’s son, Avery John Rauhen, who passed away from complications of the condition on July 30, 2009; and

WHEREAS; today, the state of Wisconsin joins affected individuals, families, and dedicated advocates and organizations like the Global Gastroschisis Foundation in spreading awareness, promoting research, and honoring all those who are living with or who have lost their lives to gastroschisis;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim June 30, 2023, as

GASTROSCHISIS AWARENESS DAY

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance
to all the state’s residents.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have
hereunto set my hand and caused the
Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin
to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in
the City of Madison this 7th day
of July 2023.

Tony Evers
TONY EVERS
GOVERNOR

By the Governor:

Sarah Godlewski
SARAH GODLEWSKI
Secretary of State